

Knox Denounces Mary's Marriage.

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it, yf I foirsee thame, then it does to any of the nobilitie; for boyth my vocatioun and conscience craves playness of me. And thairfoir, Madam, to yourself I say that whiche I speak in publict place : Whensoever that the nobilitie of this realme shall consent that ye be subject to ane unfaythfull husband, thei do as mucche as in thame lyeth to renounce Christ, to banish his treuth from thame, to betray the fredome of this realme, and perchance shall in the end do small comforte to yourself/

" At these wordis, owling was heard, and tears mycht have been sein in greattar abundance than the mater requyred. Johne Erskine of Dun, a man of meak and gentill spreit, stood besyd, and entreated what he could to mitigat her anger, and gave hir many pleasing wordis of hir beautie, of hir excellence, and how that all the Princes of Europe wold be glad to seak her favouris. But all that was to cast oyle on the flaming fyre. The said Johne stood still, without any alteratioun of countenance for a long season, whill that the Quene gave place to hir inordinat passioun ; and in the end he said, * Madam, in Goddis presence I speak. I never delyted in the weaping of any of Goddis creatures ; yea, I can skarslie weill abyde the tears of my awin boyes whome my awin hand correctis, much less can I rejoise in your Majestie's weaping. But seeing that I have offered unto you no just occasioun to be offended, but have spokken the treuth, as my vocatioun craves of me, I man sustean (albeit unwillinglie) your Majesties tears rather than I dar hurte my conscience, or betray my Commonwealth through my silence/

" Heirwith was the Quene more offended, and commanded the said Johne to pass furth of the cabinet and to abyde further of her pleasur in the chalmer."

Knox beguiled the next hour in enlarging to the queen's ladies in the ante-chamber on the fleetingness of female vanities. " And by suche meanes procured he the company of women; and so past the tyme till that the Laird of Dun willed him to departe to his house quhill [until] new advertisement. The Quene wold have had the censement of the Lordis of the Articles, yf that such maner of speaking deserved not punishment; but sche was consailled to desist, and so that stornn quiyttit in appearance, but never in the hearte."